

SPECIFICATION

Examiner stated that the specification was objected to as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. In particular Examiner stated that there is no support in the specification for the outer floor covering being a clear resin film.

In this regard, Agent for Applicant respectfully states that the specification teaches:

the outer panel or layer 6 may be comprises of a suitable laminate such as a high-pressure laminate or HPL...such laminates can be impregnated with resin such as phenolic resin and are laminated under heat and pressure so as to produce a strong wear resistant assembly or floor covering. The outer panel may include a decorative surface that is attractive and abrasive resistant. The outer panel can include a high wear film 17 bonded to the top thereof in a manner well known to those persons skilled in the art (see page 7, lines 17-25).

A floor panel as claimed in claim 8 wherein said outer panel presents an outer clear resin film (see claim 8).

Since the floor panel comprises of two pieces of high-pressure laminate material 8 and 10 which are adhered to one another, the border 30 is much more durable than that shown in U.S. Patent No. 4,625,491 [Gibson]. In particular the inner panel 8 may have a high wear film on the top surface of the margin 30 (in other words on the surface between the inner and outer panels 8 and 10 respectively) which is highly resistant to moisture failure or the like. This is in contrast to the edge produced by U.S. Patent No. 4,625,491 where the laminate surface is cut so as to exposed the coloured black paper which is not as highly resistant to moisture or failure as that used in the invention herein (see page 7, line 33, page 8, line 7).

A floor panel as claimed in claim 9 wherein said inner panel presents a clear resin film between said first and second panels (see claim 10).

In order to more clearly describe the invention without adding any new subject matter Agent for Applicant respectfully requests the following amendments, without adding any new subject matter, namely:

page 7, paragraph 2

The outer panel or layer 6 may be comprised of a suitable laminate such as a high-pressure laminate or HPL. In one embodiment such high-pressure laminate can be manufactured under the trade name "Formica" or other trade names well known to those persons skilled in the art. Such laminates can be impregnated with resin such as phenolic resin and are laminated under heat and pressure so as to produce a strong, very wear resistant assembly or floor covering. The outer panel may include a decorative surface that is attractive and abrasive resistant. The outer panel can include a high wear film 17 bonded to the top thereof in a manner well known to persons skilled in the art. Such high wear film presents an outer clear resin film.

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durable than that shown in U.S. Patent No. 4,625,491. In particular the inner panel 8 may have a high wear film on the top surface of the margin 30 (in other words on the surface between the inner and outer panel 8 and 10 respectively) which is highly resistant to moisture failure or the like. Such high wear film presents a clear resin film between the first and second panels. This is in contrast to the edge produced by U.S. Patent No. 4, 625,491 where the laminate surface is cut so as to expose the coloured black paper which is not as highly resistant to moisture or failure as that used in the invention herein.